

LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH
17 November 1980

REAGAN AND THE CIA MORE EVIDENCE OF SECURITY SCANDAL

By ROBERT MOSS

THREE days after the American elections, the staff secretary of the National Security Council, Christine Dodson, issued an internal directive to its employees stating that she and a colleague, Mr. Les Denend, were the sole authorised channels for dealing with Mr. Reagan's transition team.

It is imperative, the memo asserts, "that you transfer to us any questions, contacts etc. that may come to you directly from the public, Governor Reagan's people, or other agencies."

Senior advisers to Mr. Reagan regard this as further evidence that the Carter Administration is seeking to cover up evidence of a major security scandal involving the NSC before the new President is sworn in on Jan. 20.

A well-placed source in the Justice Department insists that the recent conviction of Mr. David Barnett, a former CIA employee who spied for the Soviet KGB was only the "tip of the iceberg." According to this source, prosecution of Mr. Barnett was delayed for many months because of fears that he might publicly name a high-level official in the NSC with whom he had been seen conversing at diplomatic receptions and who is believed to have passed him information that ultimately found its way to the KGB.

By this account, it was only after leaks to the media from Congressional investigators that Mr. Barnett was brought to trial—even then, only on a one-count indictment that protected him against the most severe penalties.

After Jan. 20, the Senate Judiciary Committee, which will then be chaired by the conservative Sen. Strom Thurmond, is expected to initiate a full-scale investigation.

In recent years, the FBI has been seriously hamstrung in its efforts to expose Soviet "moles" in the administration as a result of political constraints and the general demoralisation resulting from episodes like the recent conviction of two former top FBI officials for technical illegalities committed in the investigation of the terrorist Weather Underground.

Political campaign
Meanwhile, a debate is taking place within the Reagan camp over the possible restructuring of the whole Washington intelligence community. In early October, Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, the former chief of the Defence Intelligence Agency and a leading Reagan adviser who played a major part in orchestrating the political campaign against Senate Left-wingers like Sen. Frank Church of Idaho, produced a draft executive order on the remodeling of the intelligence agencies.

Some elements in the plan won ready consensus: for example, the need to reinstitute the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board as a "council of elders" to keep a tutelary eye on the day-to-day work of the agencies. Gen. Graham is a possible candidate to head such a body.

However, some of Gen. Graham's other proposals—for the radical pruning of the CIA and for the creation of a Director-General of Intelligence as overall co-ordinator in place of the CIA Director—drew strong criticism from former CIA people in the Reagan team, many of whom have tended to gravitate towards their former Director, Vice-President-elect George Bush.

Gen. Graham proposed to transfer the functions of the CIA's Directorate of Science and Technology (minus the national photographic interpretation centre, which analyses aerial surveillance pictures) to the Defence Department and to create competing centres of intelligence estimates. The latter proposal is

strongly supported by defence analysts who were appalled by the CIA's record of seriously under-estimating the Soviet defence build-up.

For many intelligence professionals, however, the key problem is not structures, but people—and specifically, how to give forceful leadership to the CIA and how to replace senior men with indispensable experience who left in droves in the bleak years of President Carter and Admiral Turner. One of Mr. Reagan's intelligence advisers says that "at least 25" senior ex-CIA people will need to be brought back.

Smear campaign

The key appointments of National Security Adviser and CIA Director have yet to be made. But Mr. Richard V. Allen, Mr. Reagan's young and energetic chief foreign policy adviser, has re-emerged as the favourite for the job that Dr. Brzezinski now holds. Mr. Allen was the victim of a vicious smear campaign in the run-up to the elections, in which a main vehicle was MOTHER JONES, a radical West Coast publication closely associated with the far-Left Institute for Policy Studies.

But the efforts to discredit him on the grounds of his financial activities appears to have misfired. This will not be welcome news to Dr. Henry Kissinger, an old sparring partner of Mr. Allen's. If Mr. Allen takes the NSC job, his deputy will be Mr. Bill Van Cleave, a leading defence expert who is popular at the Pentagon.

Some members of Mr. Reagan's inner circle would like to see Mr. William J. Casey, the present head of the transition team, become CIA director. He would have the assets of a direct line to the President, the political instinct to direct a dramatic change of pace at Langley, some personal background in intelligence, and the ability to span the divides within the community.

If Mr. Casey decides against the job, however, it is likely to go to Mr. Larry Silberman, a

former ambassador to Belgrade (and another bureaucratic rival of Dr. Kissinger in the past) who now heads the transition team dealing with the CIA.

Euro-disarmers in Madrid

Disarmament was a major theme of the meeting of the Socialist International in Madrid last week. It has also been the topic for a deepening dialogue between the Socialist International and the Soviet Communist party since the SI despatched a special "study group," headed by Mr. Lalevi Sorsa, the Finnish Social Democrat leader, to Moscow at the end of last year for talks with President Brezhnev, Mr. Boris Ponomarev, and other Russian leaders.

There are signs that the Soviet leadership is hoping to channel increased support to unilateral disarmament lobbies in Western Europe in a bid to stymie the defence plans of the Reagan administration that will take office in Washington on Jan. 20.

A new organisation founded in Vienna two months ago under the chairmanship of Mr. Olof Palme, the Swedish Social Democrat leader, could prove to be a highly-useful tool in this strategy, whether or not its Western members are aware of it.

The new body is called the Independent International Commission for Disarmament and Security. It includes two former Carter administration officials, Mr. Cyrus Vanca and Mr. Leslie Gelb, the former head of the State Department's political-military bureau who ascribed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (after his return from a visit to Moscow last summer) to the Russians' fear of encirclement.

The Palme group includes a galaxy of West European Socialist leaders: Dr. David Owen, the former British Foreign Secretary; Mr. Joop Den Uyl, the former Dutch

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